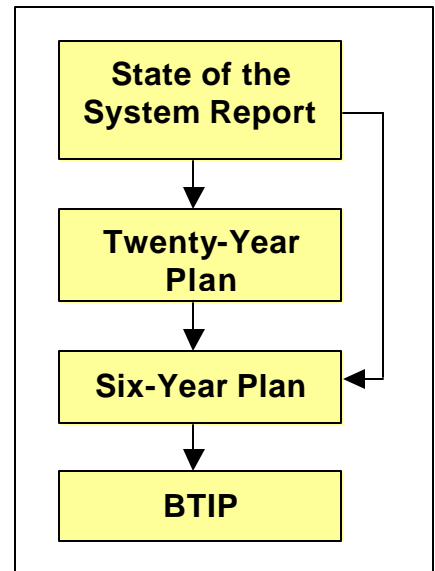


## 1.0 Introduction

This is the first *State of the System Report*. Its purpose is to objectively assess the condition, report on the uses, and identify the present and future needs of Maine's transportation system. This report is a precursor to MaineDOT's Twenty-Year Transportation Plan and it provides data-supported historical trends and future predictions essential for long term planning. The Executive Summary found in Section Two summarizes the key findings. Section Three details the condition of the State's highway and bridge assets and the modal assets owned or supported by MaineDOT. Section Four examines the transportation system's performance. Section Five looks at different funding scenarios and related implications. In short, the *State of the System Report* is a tool for strategic transportation planning and analysis of the State Transportation System and the physical infrastructure that supports the movement of Maine's people and goods.

**The Twenty-Year Transportation Plan**, updated every three years, expresses MaineDOT's mission, policies and the long-term goals that guide the Department's allocation of resources. MaineDOT formulates the Twenty-Year Plan on the basis of the condition and performance of the system and on information obtained from the public, municipal officials, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committees (RTACs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and the Legislature.

**The Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Six-Year Plan)**, updated every two years, links the goal-oriented Twenty-Year Plan to the Department's project-based Biennial Transportation Improvement Program (BTIP). Unlike the Twenty-Year Plan, the Six-Year Plan includes specific projects. Projects and initiatives included in the Six-Year Plan provide a snapshot of the State's most pressing transportation needs. As funding permits, these needs will be addressed in order of priority within the subsequent three BTIPs. Municipalities, Maine Indian Nations and County Commissioners for unorganized territories request specific projects for inclusion in the Six-Year Plan. RTACs also provide input into the prioritization framework of the Six-Year Plan.



**The Biennial Transportation Improvement Program (BTIP)**, updated every two years, identifies the funding necessary to address the next two years of capital improvements associated with all modes of transportation and advance the federal and state goals outlined in the Twenty-Year Plan and Six-Year Plan. BTIPs provide details of specific projects based on needs established in the Six-Year Plan and anticipated funding levels in a two year cycle. A draft of the BTIP is presented to the Legislature for funding approval as part of the department's budget request; final approval of any bond funding rests with Maine voters through referendum.